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Graz, Mausoleum.

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This Province, on the northern fringe of which the Kalkalpen stand as shimmering walls, and into which, between the Radlpass and the Wechsel, the sources of its streams and rivers flow from the primeval formations of the Lower Tauern and the Styrian border mountains, this Styrian land, which ends with its broad valleys of ploughland and gently sloping vineyard hills to the east and the south, has never lacked admirers to sing its praises.

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Styria takes its name from the Count of Steyr, who in the 12th century was entrusted with this territory as a frontier outpost in the south-eastern corner of the Empire. Frequently overrun, defeated and rebuilt in the course of the changing centuries, its history has indeed been that of an outer march. Its name brings with it the memory of stubborn struggles, and the silver panther on a green field stands to honour its spirit in its coat of arms, kept immaculate by manly courage.

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How shall one try here to describe the Province in a few words? At what boundary should one begin, at what places pause to use that district and its inhabitants to illustrate the whole? Obviously from Graz, the capital, we must try to get a glimpse and general picture of past and present. A fishing village and a market-place near the Mur Bridge in the shadow of the fortifications of the Castle Rock—this was Graz more than 900 years ago. Civic industry, the good and ill fortune brought by the centuries, have filled its history. Emperors have reigned there, and there also servants of art and science have come together from all quarters of the globe. Today Graz is a town with a quarter of a million inhabitants, surrounded by busy industrial

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musical notes enlivening the warm nights and sun-drenched, dreamy days. The more abundantly the vines have blossomed, the sweeter the ripening grapes, the more wind rattles are set up to protect the cherished fruit. In their thousands they are supposed to scare away the bold thrushes and starlings. Although when they sound loudly a cloud of scared birds rises into the sky, they soon settle again among the sweet grapes. The wind-rattles really contribute more to the atmosphere of this part of the country than to the effective protection of the vine. Visitors as well as natives adore them; you quickly learn to distinguish the notes of one from another. On stormy nights of hail and thunder, it is as if they were calling in alarm to the ruler of the clouds.

Styrian attributes:
Dear but galant the Ennstaler,
Charming the Ausseer girl,
Thoughtful and grave the Murbodner.
Solemn, good trencherman the East Styrian,
Easily roused the Grazer,
Soft of heart the Lower Styrian.
And all tough and courageous in the cause of the Motherland.

up or dug out to form ditches and pits; between them stand the narrow sheds containing slabs of dried peat. The valley extends as a wilderness filled with the humming of a myriad insects busy above the red carpet of wild mustard out of which rise blackberry brambles and the white trunks of young birches. The Kulm, a tree-clad hill on the pale summit of which stands the pilgrimage church of Frauenberg, rises steeply from the banks of the Enns. With two towers and light coloured walls the old shrine reflects the light of the surrounding mountain peaks, which look like a festive garland supporting the blue of the heavens. For half a century the abbots of Admont have cherished this church of Our Gracious Lady with artistic and more than loving generosity. In the "Turkish Year" (1683) the church was invested with its baroque pomp as a worthy framework for the old shrine, to which Johann Thaddäus Stammel later added a glorious wreath in the shape of a delightful choir of angels.

A narrow avenue of chestnut trees leads to a Calvary Mount on the fringe of the mountains. The group around the Cross rises above a weather-beaten wall. It is the work of peasant hands and has an impressive solemnity seen against the background of the distant mountains. In the valley below the Enns emerges, a green and glittering torrent, to flow through meadows and alder bushes to Admont.

The two slender towers of the Abbey which are seen by the tourist from a long way off, were only built after the great fire of 1865, but the surrounding settlement and the foundation of the monastery date back to the earliest history of the Province. [103] Latest research claims to have established that the name Admont is of Illyrian origin, and that the "region of plentiful water" which this name suggests in Illyrian had therefore long been inhabited by human beings—by fishermen, woodsmen and hunters—when monks from St. Peter in Salzburg came, in 1047, to the monastery. It had been built by Archbishop Eberhard with money given by St. Hemma of Gurk, there to found what became one of the most prosperous and best known cultural centres of the Province. Worship and science, art, agriculture

131 The Burgenland has some strange features. It is the youngest province of Austria, yet it claims to be one of the oldest. For a time it belonged to Hungary, and just during this period it held a brilliant position in Austrian intellectual life, boasting of such mighty names as Haydn and Liszt, Hyrtl and Semmelweis. Its name is taken from three castles which no longer lie within its frontiers, but is justified by other castles as well. It is of considerable length—160 kilometres from North to South, corseted somewhere in the middle to a wasp-waist only four kilometres in diameter. Its plains are sparsely inhabited, while its mountain land is densely populated. It has a raw climate in the south, while in parts of its northern areas, the climate resembles that of Helwan in Egypt. Its frontiers with foreign countries are longer than its inland boundaries, yet it is Austrian to the core.

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133 The inquiring stranger who has set out on a voyage of discovery should first drive by car along the Bundesstrasse to Bruck-on-the-Leitha and here turn off to the right into the Leitha mountains which in the centre separate the Burgenland from Lower Austria. From the summits of the mountains one looks down on to the Neusiedler Lake. Over 900 feet above the shining surface of the lake one finds oneself beneath sighing trees growing on what was once the bottom of a great sea. The sea itself, it is true, disappeared thousands of years ago, but the work of its maritime life remains in the form of rich deposits of mussel chalk. Walking along any forest path in the Leitha-gebirge one can easily trace in the stones the fossil forms of long vanished animals and plants.

When the tourist is weary of scientific research he can clear his brain in the sparkling Neusiedler Lake or with the no less inviting wine which ripens on its shores.

423 The plain to the north of the Neusiedler Lake was always one of vast estates. Between the scattered villages lie the dairy farms of the great landowners, who have their castles and manors in the villages. In Kittsee, Gattendorf and Halbturn there are many examples of baroque art. Lukas von Hildebrandt, Maulpertsch and others were commissioned to work there for the Magyar feudal landowners, Esterházy, Batthyány and so on.

133 Adjoining this countryside, the moor-land district, is tucked away on the eastern shores of the Neusiedler Lake a cloud-overcast and wind-harassed group of lakes. There are a number of warm and brackish little lakes, scattered over steppes of pronouncedly eastern character. Sea-sparwort, feathered grasses and copper-

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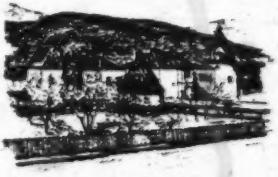
Güssing.

Burgenland's volcano—Pauliberg is its name—is of course no longer active. But it provides the Province with indispensable basalt for road building.

The Burgenland volcanoes—there are more than one of them—although non-eruptive, have the hot springs which still flow along the thermal line. That line of healing springs which begins in Vienna and continues through Baden and Vöslau, unites in Burgenland with the sulphur baths of Leithaprodersdorf, northwest of Eisenstadt. It carries on to the unpretencious health centre of Sauerbrunn at the foot of the Rosaliengebirge and feeds the mineral springs of Kobersdorf at the foot of the Pauliberg. Parallel to it runs a second line from the radioactive baths in Edelstal to the mineral springs of Deutschkreutz.



Kobersdorf.

133 Far off in the south of the Burgenland the basalt cone of Güssing is still recognisable as a part of the volcanic chain. The narrow strip of land where three countries meet and where the castle ruins of Neuhaus look down from the mountain, is in its isolation one of the most lovely spots of Austria. Here the Raab traverses the Province. Its name has survived from the days of the Romans, who may have adopted it from the Celts or the Illyrians. The town of the same name situated where the river joins the Danube is called Györ in Hungarian, preserving the memory of the Avars who, when the barbarian flood had subsided, remained as rulers of Pannonia, and thus [illegible] the Burgenland. "Györ" means "ring", the Avars designating as "rings" the earthworks behind which they defied a superior force, while their mounted hordes ravaged the countryside.

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Bernstein.

In Southern Burgenland there are no surviving traces of the Avars, although the names of many places bear witness to their not always willing followers, Slavonic tribes who, as farmers, were forced to contribute to the support of the Avar nomads. Welten,

Gritsch, Doiber and Oberdrosen are examples, while Windisch-Minihof has preserved its eloquent name unchanged. 103

Minihof—does it not sound as if this village had been named after one of its favourite inhabitants? On Sunday, when the women and girls of the Burgenland go to church, many of them in the traditional and proudly preserved national costumes which differ from village to village, more than one pretty girl, whether Mini, Kathi or Liesl, attracts attention.

In the Province there are about half a dozen Minihofs. But the name means nothing other than Münichhof, Monks' Dwelling. The monks, whose memory has thus been recorded did much to further the development of the Province.

About 800 A.D., Charlemagne defeated the Avars, and established the Pannonian Mark, which included the best part of the Burgenland territory on both sides of the Raab and the adjoining strips of Lower Austria as far as the slopes of the Wiener-wald. This became the nucleus of Austria. The monasteries of Salzburg, Kremsmünster and Mattsee, together with those of Passau and Freising, were given vast estates in the Burgenland by the Carolingian rulers and attracted settlers. The ruins of Scarabantia and Sabaria, which had the appearance of an "öden Burg" ("desolate castle"), lying about like "Steine am Anger" ("stones on the slope") then awoke to new life. Purbach and Donnerskirchen between the Leithagebirge and the Neusiedler Lake, Lutzmannsburg in the district of Oberpullendorf, close to the Hungarian frontier, and Pernau, further to the South just the other side of the frontier, all date from this time. So does Minihof, the "Hof", or residence, of the monks. 175 103

Let us here recall St. Martin, the most venerable of all the famous sons of the Burgenland. Born in 316 A.D. in the little town of Sabaria, he became through his efforts as Bishop of Tours the patron saint of the Franks. Reverence for his name was brought back to the Burgenland and to Pannonia through people who settled

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Morbisch.

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First let us visit the basket weavers of the beautiful Rabnitz Valley and the potters of Stoob where the ancient craft of pottery is still carried on by hand. Then let us cross to Raiding. Here the small house is still standing where a great man in the world of music first saw the light of day—Franz Liszt. He was triumphant the world over, from Russia to France and England. Everywhere the smiles of lovely women welcomed him but more and more he was affected by that melancholy which is reflected in the verses of Lenau. The latter had connections with the Burgenland through his mother; his lyrics won as many friends for the land of the *Puszta* as did the Hungarian rhapsodies of Liszt.

Basket-Weaver.

131 Past Ritzing, where the surface belongs to the Burgenland but the coal below it to Hungary, because the tunnels of Brennberg, near Ödenburg, burrow below the frontier, our way leads us to Sieggraben. This is the home of the Semmelweis family, whose most famous son brought salvation from the scourge of puerperal fever to the child-bearing mothers of all times. From here the road climbs to the summit of the Rosaliengebirge, where a view opens towards the east across the Wulka Plain, taking in Ödenburg and the Neusiedler Lake and westwards, the Bucklige Welt, Wiener Neustadt and the Leitha.

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Village Drummer.

On the Leitha also lies the battlefield of 1246. Friedrich the Quarrelsome, last of the Babenbergs, made the territory which had formerly belonged to the Mark of the Carolingians the subject of his first demands.

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The Burgenland was long contested. Not for nothing do the many churches in its pleasant villages stand on commanding heights, surrounded by walls which give them the appearance of fortresses, and not for nothing were the many castles and fortified towers set up.

The days of the Turkish invasions brought poverty and desolation to the land, but at the same time a new population which was fleeing from the Turks and found a new home in the Burgenland—the Croats. From Kroboteck in the district of Jennersdorf through Stinatz, Punkitz, Podgoria and Kroatisch-Minihof there

Village Street.

are many village names of Croat origin. These Croats not only repopulated the devastated areas but also cleared the forests to build new settlements. The "Displaced Persons" of the Turkish Wars have become an indispensable part of the Burgenland population.

They are called "Wasserkroaten". It is uncertain as whether this refers to their having come from the coasts of Dalmatia, or whether "Wosser Kroaten" points to their having come from the province of Wossen, i. e. Bosnia.

The soil of the Burgenland is not capable of feeding all its children, so that thousands of its inhabitants become bricklayers who work for the whole week in other parts of Austria during the season, to return on Saturdays to their native villages. Their busy hands have helped to create the splendid buildings on the Ringstrasse. In the plaster and stucco decorations of these are concealed the reeds of the Neusiedler Lake. The Votivkirche, in Vienna, is built of stone from the quarries of St. Margarethen, between Eisenstadt and the lake. The Italians who were summoned to the Leithagebirge in 1550 as stone masons had barely become Burgenlanders when they were commissioned to work on the imperial "Neugebäude" in Ebersdorf. Thus there is a close connection between Kaiser-Ebersdorf in Vienna and the Burgenland parish of Kaisersteinbruch in the Leithagebirge.